

TOWN MEETING

PLYMOUTH, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Hanson, in the County of Plymouth GREETINGS,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hanson, qualified to vote in Town affairs, and elections, to meet in the Auditorium of the Hanson Middle School, 111 Liberty Street in said Hanson on Monday the **Second** day of May 2, 2022 at 7:30 o'clock in the afternoon, to act on the articles in this warrant following articles, to wit:

<u>ARTICLE 1:</u> To hear reports of the various Town Officers, Committees, Special Committees, and act thereon.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The Reports voted on are those published in the 2021 Town Report.

<u>ARTICLE 2:</u> To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2023 as permitted by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F; or take any other action in relative thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: This article allows the Treasurer/Collector to maintain accounts using credits instead of money to pay for banking charges.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the Salary and Compensation of all paid Elected Officers and Committees of the Town as follows; or take any other action in relative thereto:

FY22 FY23
Town Clerk \$73,436.00 \$75,639.00

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Explanation: This article sets the salary limits for all elected officials, Article 5 funds the salaries.



ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$22,800.00 to install security cameras around all perimeters of Town Hall town property.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: Installation of security cameras will provide us with the ability to monitor after hour activity at Town owned property.

ARTICLE 5: To determine what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from free cash, transfer from Town Ambulance Funds, Water Department Revenue, Water Surplus, Title V Special Revenue Fund, MWPAT Loan Repayment Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Conservation Notice of Intent Fund, Overlay Surplus, and Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excluded Debt, to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including Debt and Interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the 2023 Fiscal Year; or take any other action in relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article refers to the FY23 Annual Budget Lines.



<u>ARTICLE 6:</u> To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Recreation Department during Fiscal Year 2023, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ as printed below; or take any other action relative thereto.

Estimated Revenues Item Program Receipts (fees) Retained Earnings Taxation/Free Cash Total Budgeted Revenues:	FY 22 Amount \$131,590 \$ 20,000 \$ \$151,590	FY 23 Amount \$224,000 \$ 0 \$60,000 \$284,000			
Estimated Expenses					
Item	Amount	Amount	Funding Source		
Salaries	\$ 91,840	\$157,000	117,000	Rec	Program
Revenue					
			40,000 Free Cash		
Expenses	\$ 30,750	\$ 94,500	75,500	Rec	Program
Revenue					
			_20,000 Fre		
Indirect Costs	\$ 29,000	<u>\$ 31,500</u>	Rec Progran	n Reven	ue
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$151,590	\$284,000			
Free Cash subsidy		\$60,000			
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Proposed by the Recreation Commission

Explanation: These are the budget request amounts for FY23 as voted by the Recreation Commission for the operation and maintenance of Camp Kiwanee.





<u>ARTICLE 7:</u> To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Transfer Station during fiscal year 2023, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ as printed below; or take any other action relative thereto.

Estimated Revenues Item	FY22 Amount	FY23 Amount	
Program Receipts (fees) Retained Earnings Taxation/Free Cash Total Budgeted Revenues:	\$200,136 \$ 60,000 \$118,000 \$378,186	\$227,027 \$ 0 \$165,000 \$392,027	
Estimated Expenses Item	FY22 Amount	FY23 Amount	Funding Source
Salaries	\$121,212	\$125,752	100,752 SW Program Rev 25,000 Free Cash
Expenses	\$227,700	\$229,000	126,275 SW Program Rev 102,725 Free Cash
Indirect Costs Subtotal, Solid Waste:	\$ 29,274 \$378,186	\$ 37,275 \$392,027	Free Cash
Free Cash subsidy		\$165,000	

Proposed by the Board of Health

Explanation: The total cost of operating the Transfer Station for FY23 will be shown in this budget. Salaries, indirect costs and a portion of expenses will come from program revenues and from other funds.



ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the purchase of a generator for the Library/Senior Center.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article will allow us to purchase a generator for use at Library/Senior Center when there is no power. This will ensure that we will always have a heating and cooling center for those in need when weather related events cause power outages. In addition, it will ensure that the essential services performed by the Library/Senior Center are able to continue to be performed even when there are power outages. The Town will attempt to submit for reimbursement with ARPA funds.

<u>ARTICLE 9:</u> To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$17,000.00 to fund promotional exams for Fire Department Deputy Chief and Lieutenant; or take other action in relative thereto

Proposed by the Hanson Fire Chief

Explanation: These funds will be utilized to conduct a promotional process for the positions for of Deputy Chief and Fire Lieutenant.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the development of a strategic plan.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: Hanson does not have a strategic plan in place. A strategic plan is essential to financial and capital planning and will help to develop a vision that guides priorities for forecasting future budgets.

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ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of \$14,000.00 for grading of private gravel roads to allow fire and law enforcement services safe access.

Proposed by the Highway Department

Explanation: The Highway Department re-grades certain private gravel roads in the Town of Hanson two times per year. These funds are required for this purpose as well as to compact the material appropriately and to fill potholes with suitable material between the grading cycles as necessary for public safety and emergency access. These funds would be used to provide for the grading and to properly pitch the roads to the proper elevations and compact the material which should help to stabilize these roads.

<u>ARTICLE 12:</u> To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash to the Highway Department Capital Account for the items printed below; or take any other action relative thereto.

No.	Dept.	Item	Amount	Town Admin	Funding Source
			Requested	Recommendation	
1	Highway	Ford F250 Pick Up Truck	\$59,000.00		Free Cash
2	Highway	6-Wheel Freightliner Dump Truck and Sander	\$240,000.00		Free Cash
		Totals	\$299,000.00		Free Cash

Proposed by the Highway Department

Explanation: The Highway Supervisors vehicle is approaching eight years in age and is showing signs of significant wear from extended exposure to the elements and road salt. The new vehicle will be equipped with a snowplow required to plow during snow events. The existing vehicle could be utilized by the Highway Mechanic as it has a large fuel storage tank which is used to fill equipment on the road as well the generator located at the police station. The Highway department maintains over 60 miles of paved roadways within the Town. The Dump Truck would be heavily used for hauling material and snow removal and salting. This vehicle has been on the Capital Plan for this fiscal year but was not funded due to the prior Town Meeting with the override. The Department currently has 3 large capacity Dump Trucks that service the Town. The one that this would be replacing is approaching 18 years of age and has been pushed beyond its recommended service life. This vehicle being replaced should be kept as a reserve until the next truck on the Capital Improvement Plan can be procured which is approaching 23 years of age. We have no current backup if a truck is out of service for an extended period of time for repairs, which happens quite often with an aging fleet.

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ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of \$100,000.00 for construction of a Park Perimeter Trail / Bay Circuit Trail relocation onto the former Plymouth County Hospital property, as the necessary preliminary step for reimbursement in that same amount through a state Recreational Trail Program grant; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

Explanation: In 2019, the Town successfully applied for a \$100,000 Mass Trails Grant, to create a recreational walking trail along the eastern edge of the former Plymouth County Hospital property. This is a reimbursement grant, i.e., the Town must first expend project funds, which will then be reimbursed by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. This project will relocate a 0.8-mile portion of the Bay Circuit Trail off High Street and Pierce Avenue, into scenic meadows and forested areas, incorporating renovated old service roads. It will complement future trails that are envisioned within a future Town Park nearby on the site.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of \$25,000.00 to replenish the Conservation Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

Explanation: One of the more important responsibilities of the Conservation Commission is the care and custody of open space land the Town has designated for conservation. These open spaces are included in the Hanson Open Space and Recreation Plan, which describes the Town's goals for acquiring and protecting open spaces and providing public access and passive recreation opportunities. The Conservation Commission has a lead role in implementing this Plan and works to provide a linked system of trails and greenways that are accessible to the public; create parking spaces at open space access points; and provide passive recreation information by providing maps of open space lands, installing kiosks and signage at access locations, and working with other land conservation groups to expand the open space inventory and access. The Conservation Fund is the means to facilitate these activities.



<u>ARTICLE 15:</u> To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for Capital Improvements and purchases for the items printed below for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District; or take any other action or relative thereto.

Proposed by the Whitman Hanson Regional School District

No.	Dept.	Item	Amount Requested	Town Admin Recommendation	Funding Source
1	School- WHRSD	District Vehicles	\$51,220.00 (full 130k)		Free Cash
2	School- High School	Telephone System (Hanson Portion)	\$25,223.00		Free Cash
3	School- High School	Roadway/Faculty Parking Lot Replacement	\$120,000.00 (full 300k)		Free Cash
4	School- Middle School	Roadway Replacement	\$200,000.00		Free Cash
5	School- High School	RTU (Rooftop Unit) High School Evaluation	\$3,940.00 (full 10k)		Free Cash
6	School- High School	Reimbursement RTU (Rooftop Unit) Drive Replacement	\$8,569.50 (full\$21,750)		Transfer
7	School- Middle	Gym Floor Refinish	\$25,000.00		Free Cash
8	School- Middle	Boiler/Water Line Freeze Reimbursement	\$11,788.00		Transfer
		Totals	\$445,740.50		



ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2023, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 10,000

Reserves:

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Historic Resource Reserve	\$38,000
From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$38,000
From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$38,000
From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$124,000

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: This article ensures that Hanson's Community Preservation Accounts are compliant with the Community Preservation Act which requires that a certain portion of the CPA funds be set aside for open space projects, community housing projects, historical projects and recreation projects. In addition, it sets aside money for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee.

<u>ARTICLE 17</u>: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation Fund Open Space/Recreation and Undesignated Reserve fund balances a sum of \$28,500 to fund the replacement of the fence at the Boteri baseball field complex that separates the little league field area from the highway department complex; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: This funding is to replace an aging and deteriorating fence that separates the baseball fields from the Highway Department complex.

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ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund an existing Outreach for Seniors position at the Council on Aging; or take any action in relative thereto.

Proposed by the Council on Aging

Explanation: The Hanson population continues to age, with close to 30% of the population is over the age of 55. The need for services to the aging and elderly continues to increase. To ensure that people are aware of and have access to the services they need to successfully age in their homes, we request funding this position. The Outreach worker will meet with residents and assist them with referrals, homecare, fuel assistance and a supplemental nutrition assistance program. He/she will be expected to become S.H.I.N.E. certified, which will assist the Director in advising residents of their Medicare options. This is a 19 hour, no benefits position. Due to the minimum wage increase as of January 25, 2022, this position would change from \$13.50-\$22.00 hourly to \$14.50-\$22.00 hourly as reflected in the revised Compensation Plan.

<u>ARTICLE 19</u>: To see if the Town will vote raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the conversion of the Conservation Agent position from part-time to full-time; or take another other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

Explanation: The Conservation Agent is currently funded at only 19 hours per week. Unlike the Health Agent, Town Planner, Building Inspector, it is the only Department Head position in Town Hall that is not full time. This hinders the ability to achieve the goal of the Conservation Commission to protect the environmental landscape of the Town of Hanson.

<u>ARTICLE 20:</u> To see if the Town will vote to accept Mass. General Laws, Chapter 64L, Section 2(a) to impose a meals tax at the rate of .75% to take effect October 1, 2022; or take any other action in relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: Adoption of this statute would impose a 0.75% local option meals excise tax of the vendor's gross receipts from restaurant meal sales. This local meals tax will not create any additional financial or workload burden upon the establishment. The additional revenue will be used to fund future municipal and school costs as determined by the subsequent Town Meeting Votes.

<u>ARTICLE 21</u>: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hanson bylaws to add a new Article 2-21, to require all elected and appointed boards to videotape and/or audiotape their meetings as follows; or take another other action relative thereto:

Article 2-21, Town Boards, Committees and Commissions

Sec. 1

All Town of Hanson Boards, Committees and Commissions, elected and appointed, shall video or audio record all meetings, which recordings shall be posted to the Town's website and/or the Whitman-Hanson Cable Access Television website, unless protected as an executive session.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: In order to increase transparency and citizen engagement, the Town of Hanson should make the video of all meetings available to the general public. There are nuances and discussions that happen in meetings that are not necessarily captured in minutes for meetings. Although we currently have a policy that requires BOS appointed boards to videotape their meetings, several of our appointed boards do not comply. In addition, many of the elected boards do not comply. This article would improve the transparency of all elected and appointed Hanson boards and committees.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General and Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Hanson with gender neutral wording; specifically, deleting the words "Board of Selectmen" and inserting in its place the words "Select Board" wherever those words appear; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: "Select Board" is a term that simply and fully represents the people and world we live in today that embraces diverse and inclusion. We believe this change is important because our government works better when all people regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation are included and feel welcome to participate in public service and government. **Requires 2/3rd majority vote.**

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to reduce the number of members of the Recreation Commission from seven (7) members to five (5) members; or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Recreation Commission

Explanation: It is difficult to achieve a quorum with a (7) seven-member commission, and therefore, unable to conduct meetings and attend to matters. Lowering the commission

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membership to (5) five will allow the Recreation Commission to attain a quorum to successfully conduct meetings and attend to matters.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the positions of Event Coordinator and Facilities Manager at Camp Kiwanee; or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Recreation Commission

Explanation: To be provided at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VI of the Town of Hanson Zoning Bylaws by deleting both subsection L, Medical Marijuana Facilities and subsection M, Marijuana Establishments in their current forms; combining the two subsections; and updating the language accordingly as more particularly described in the bylaw changes on file with the Town Clerk as of the posting hereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Planning Board

Explanation: This article simply works to re-codify the existing language for both Medical and Recreational Marijuana by combining them into a single section and eliminating superfluous or unnecessary language/requirements. At the state level, review has also been centralized, falling now under the Cannabis Control Commission. Moreover, the impacts of Marijuana Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers for cultivation, manufacture, and other use types is the same.

A separate, comprehensive handout will be provided at Town Meeting. The full text of the bylaw is not included in the warrant as Town Meeting's vote on Articles 45-48 may modify each subsequent vote in terms of the placement of these amendments within the existing bylaw and the specific wording of each amendment. *This requires 2/3rds majority vote.*

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ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VI of the Town of Hanson Zoning Bylaws by allowing for Marijuana Retailers (retail sale of adult-use marijuana to consumers) by special permit in the same locations as is allowed for other Marijuana Establishments as more particularly described in the bylaw changes on file with the Town Clerk as of the posting hereof; or take any other action relative thereto, as follows:

Proposed by the Planning Board

Explanation: This bylaw change will repeal the prohibition of Marijuana Retailers in the Town of Hanson, whereby brick and mortar retail stores will be allowed, and cannabis can be purchased by consumers in said stores. Marijuana Retailers, which meet special permit requirements, will be permitted to operate in the following locations: Assessors Map 59 Lots 17-3, 17-4, 17-5, 17-6, 17-7, 17-8, 17-10, 17-11, 17-12, 17-13, Assessors Map 52 Lot 17-16, as depicted on a plan entitled Medical Marijuana Distribution Area Overlay District Plan, Job Number P-2967, prepared by Land Planning, Inc. of Hanson, Massachusetts.

A separate, comprehensive handout will be provided at Town Meeting. The full text of the bylaw is not included in the warrant as Town Meeting's vote on Articles 45-48 may modify each subsequent vote in terms of the placement of these amendments within the existing bylaw and the specific wording of each amendment. *This requires 2/3rds majority vote*.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VI of the Town of Hanson Zoning Bylaws by adding Hawks Avenue to the list of eligible locations for Marijuana Establishments, excluding Marijuana Retailers, as more particularly described in the bylaw changes on file with the Town Clerk as of the posting hereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Planning Board

Explanation: This bylaw change will allow the siting of Marijuana Establishments, excluding Marijuana Retailers, along Hawks Avenue.

A separate, comprehensive handout will be provided at Town Meeting. The full text of the bylaw is not included in the warrant as Town Meeting's vote on Articles 45-48 may modify each subsequent vote in terms of the placement of these amendments within the existing bylaw and the specific wording of each amendment. *This requires 2/3rds majority vote.*

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ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VI of the Town of Hanson Zoning Bylaws by allowing Marijuana Delivery Operators and Marijuana Couriers in Industrial Zones and certain other eligible locations, as more particularly described in the bylaw changes on file with the Town Clerk as of the posting hereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Planning Board

Explanation: Marijuana Delivery Operators and Marijuana Couriers are relatively new uses which now may be permitted through the Cannabis Control Commission. Neither use permits brick and mortar retail stores. Instead, marijuana may be ordered remotely and delivered to the consumers residence. A strict seed to sale tracking process is required for these sales. No sales to persons under 21 years of age is allowed.

A separate, comprehensive handout will be provided at Town Meeting. The full text of the bylaw is not included in the warrant as Town Meeting's vote on Articles 45-48 may modify each subsequent vote in terms of the placement of these amendments within the existing bylaw and the specific wording of each amendment. This requires 2/3rds majority vote.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a maximum (20) year lease of a 3.8 acre portion of Town owned property including the warehouse style buildings thereon, located at 100 Hawks Avenue, depicted as a portion of Lot 1 on a Plan entitled: "Plan of Land Hawks Avenue in Hanson, MA August 24, 2018" prepared for GEI Consultants, 400 Unicorn Park, Woburn, MA 01801, by Land Planning, Inc. 1115 Main Street, Hanson MA 02341, Job No. P-2992, on file with the Town Clerk's Office, for the purposes of commercial and/or industrial use; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The former Lite Control buildings and property are a prime location for commercial and or industrial business. Leasing the property will bring in critical tax revenue and jobs to the town.

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ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote the proposed initiative petition to Amend the current recall; Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2019 as follows; or take any other action in relative thereto.

Be it enacted by the Senate & the House of Representatives and by the Authority of the Authority of the same as follows: That Section 2 of Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2019 be amended as follows; by adding the following to Section 2.

- (i) Any holder of Elective office in the Town of Hanson, may be also recalled & removed from the office they hold, by the qualified voters of the Town who shall have the right to establish their own "Grounds for recalling an Elected Public Official." On which the petition shall be based. A right that they once had and exercised when warranted since 1982.
- (j) The petition for the Recall MUST be signed by at least 300 qualified voters, and the name of the Officer whose recall is sought, along with the Statement of the Grounds for recall on which petition is based. It shall require a minimum of 50 qualified voters from each precinct, and all signatures must be certified by the Board of Registrars, before proceeding to the next step in the Recall procedure.
- (k) The recall procedure shall then continue in a similar manner as currently stated under Part (b) thru (g) of Section 2 of the "Current" Recall Law, established on October 21st of 2019 (Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2019)

Citizen's Petition proposed by Kevin Cohen

Explanation: Reason for Initiative Petition is to re-establish the Right of Voters of the Town of Hanson, to establish their own Grounds for Recalling Elected Officials in Hanson. A right that they had from 1982 to 2019. When the Current Recall Law, removed those rights and established "restricted" reasons and grounds for recall, as shown in current law.

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And to bring in the votes for the following offices: A Selectmen for three years, a Selectman for remaining two year term, an Assessor for three years, a Town Clerk for three years, a Board of Health member for three years, a Cemetery Commissioner for three years, a member of the Planning Board for five years, two Trustees of the Public Library for three years, two members of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Committee PreK-12 for three years and two Water Commissioners for three years, at the Annual Town Election to be held on May 21, 2022 at the Hanson Middle School from 10:00AM to 5:00PM.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof, at the Town Hall, the Fire Station, the public stores, and Post Offices, seven days at least, before the said meeting. Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place above-mentioned.

Given under our hands, this 14th day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand Twenty-Two.

Selectmen of Hanson

Matthew James Dyer, Chairman

Kenneth Mitchell, Vice-Chairman

Joseph Weeks, Clerk

James Hickey, Member

Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Member

A TRUE ATTEST COPY

Town Clerk

Constable

Date

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